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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

FIRST-QUARTER 1953 DATA ON OPERATIONS  
OF AZERBAIDZHAN OFFSHORE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.<sup>7</sup>

Stalinskaya Office of Exploitational Offshore Drilling

According to Bakinskiy Rabochiy of 6 January 1953, the Stalinskaya Office of Exploitational Offshore Drilling fulfilled the plan for the second year of the current Five-Year Plan. During 1952, drilling costs were reduced by 14.5 percent and the productivity of labor was raised by 21.7 percent. The office saved the state 4,864,000 rubles during 1952. (1)

A Trud article datelined Baku, 31 January 1953, reported that drillers of the Office of Exploitational Offshore Drilling of Stalinskiy Rayon probably the same as the Stalinskaya Office/ were drilling wells far from the shoreline. Two brigades, using a forced system of drilling, attained overall depths of about 5 kilometers. The collective of this office pledged to attain higher drilling speeds in 1953 and to drill the majority of wells by the dual shaft and multiple horizon methods. (2)

A 3 March 1953 article reported that the 1953 drilling plan for the Stalinskaya Office of Exploitational Offshore Drilling showed a significant increase. Several more oil wells are to be drilled at the Bukhta Il'ich Oil Field during 1953 than were drilled during 1952. The office fulfilled the drilling plan for January and February 1953 ten days ahead of schedule. (3)

The 4-month drilling plan was fulfilled by the Stalinskaya Office on 6 April 1953. One brigade attained a depth of 3,400 meters in the drilling of a dual shaft well far at sea. (4)

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Transport to Offshore Oil Fields

An article of 11 January 1953 reported that the Kasptanker ship line was engaged in transporting petroleum from Offshore Oil Field No 2 of the Gyurgyanef't' Trust at Neftyanyye Kamni to the refineries in Baku. The tankers Chemkend, Voenmor, Soyuz Vodnikov, and Marat were operating on this run.(5)

On 10 April 1953 Bakinskiy Rabochiy reported that while a large number of ships had been assigned for the transport of workers, equipment, and supplies to the offshore oil fields, the collective of transport workers often did not fulfill this mission. This was blamed on the failure of directors of the Administration of Ships to supply launches and barges with water, fuel, and lubricants.

The paper cited as an example the work of vessels serving the Gyurgyan Exploratory Drilling Office. To refuel, vessels in this service have to travel tens of kilometers to Ostrov Zhiloy or to Neftyanyye Kamni, where refueling ships are based. The article asserted that the creation of another refueling base was necessary.(6)

Progress of Gyurgyanef't' Trust

An article by the foreman of a brigade of Offshore Oil Field No 2 of the Gyurgyanef't' Trust reported that this [1952] was the fourth year that the first oil well at these deposits had operated without interruption. This well has produced some 70,000 tons of oil. The article mentioned that about 20 wells were located in one sector of Offshore Oil Field No 2.

The same article stated that the 19th Party Congress had clearly defined the tasks for further development of production at the offshore petroleum deposits. It added that tens of oil wells located more than 50 kilometers from land have already been put into operation during the Fifth-Five-Year Plant.(7)

Offshore Oil Field No 2 of the Gyurgyanef't' Trust fulfilled the January production plan despite the location of the field far at sea and the occurrence of storms.(8)

On 30 April 1953 it was reported that the offshore oil fields of the Gyurgyanef't' Trust had fulfilled ahead of schedule the 4-month plan for extraction of petroleum.(9)

Progress of Artemneft' Trust

The directors of the Artemneft' Trust were criticized for inadequate implementation of secondary methods of exploitation in an article of 27 February 1953. The Office of Secondary Methods of Exploitation was mentioned as one of the lagging sectors of the trust. The article stated that the plan for pumping of water into the production seam was being systematically underfulfilled. Out of 58 intake wells foreseen in the plan, only 48 had been drilled, and only 33 of these wells were operating.

Other criticisms concerned unsatisfactory execution of surveying work and lack of control being exercised by the Office of Gauging Equipment.(10)

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A. Sadykhov, manager of Oil Field No 3 of the Artemneft' Trust, reported on 25 March that the collective of the oil field had fulfilled the first-quarter plan /for extraction/ 9 days ahead of schedule. He stated that, whereas in 1952 Oil Field No 3 failed to fulfill the plan for extraction of petroleum, since the beginning of 1953 the oil field had systematically fulfilled the daily plan by 104-105 percent.

Sadykhov said the improvement of preventative and planning work with regard to repair of wells had been the most important factor in increasing petroleum production. The quality of underground repair, for example, had been improved. The transfer of surveying work directly to the production sectors was also termed an important improvement.

In accomplishing the increase in production, the cost of production per ton of petroleum at Oil Field No 3 was lowered by 7 percent.(11)

On 29 March 1953 it was reported that one brigade of Offshore Oil Field No 6 of the Artemneft' Trust had carried out intra-well de-emulsification which had increased daily production of petroleum by 40 tons on this sector. This brigade was also pumping water into the production seam in order to help maintain pressure and increase production.(12)

On 25 April 1953 it was reported that Oil Field No 6 of the Artemneft' Trust had fulfilled the 4-month plan for extraction of fuel ahead of schedule. In addition, all the brigades of Oil Field No 5 in Leninskiy Rayon were reported to be exceeding the plan.(13)

#### Bukhta Il'ich Oil Field

Bakinskiy Rabochiy reported on 21 January 1953 that there were dozens of "metal islands" in the territory of the Bukhta Il'ich Oil Field and that each month the forest of derricks stretched still farther out to sea.(14)

#### Collaboration of the Gipromorneft' Institute With Enterprises of the Azmorneft' Association

In an article on 1 March 1953, K. Alaverdizade, director of the Gipromorneft' Institute, and I. Kuliyeu, deputy director of the Scientific Department of the institute, gave some information on the work of the institute in developing new designs for equipment and new technology for offshore petroleum operations.

For example, Gipromorneft', collaborating with plants of Azmorneft', introduced highly efficient methods of automatic welding in place of the older system of manual welding at offshore oil fields. In addition, electrical methods for the protection of abutments of offshore structures from the corrosive action of the sea have been perfected and introduced.

However, the authors asserted that more effective anticorrosive coatings must be tested under actual production conditions in the near future. They stated that the problem is one of obtaining effective protective coatings from locally available materials. They mentioned that scientific workers of Gipromorneft' have worked out an effective method of coating metal structures using bitumen, but that this method has not yet been applied under production conditions.(15)

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5. Ibid., 11 Jan 53
6. Ibid., 10 Apr 53
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8. Ibid., 4 Feb 53
9. Moscow, Izvestiya, 30 Apr 53
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14. Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 21 Jan 53
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